



SHERRIS,

By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deans, and their Officials: Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and to all spiritual persons: And also to all Justices of Peace, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, Churchwardens, and Headboroughs: And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects whatsoever they be, aswell within liberties, as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

WHEREAS we are credibly given to understand aswell by the humble supplication & petition of our poore distressed Subject John Long of our Borough of Lymington in our Countie of Southampton, as also by a Certificate from the Mayor & other Inhabitants of Lymington aforesaid, & of the Parishes adjoining, sealed wth the usual Seale of the Corporation of Lymington: That our said poore Subject John Long hath alwaies been a man of honest life & conversation, and one that lived in good reputation, untill such time as it pleased God to visit him with great losses by Sea, who being owner of a Barque called the Ioane of Lymington, and lading her with yron & Timber, in the yere 1612, to be transported from Lymington to Falmouth in Cornwall, it so hapned, that the said Barque in her returne homewards being reladen with Yn & other Marchandises was through tempestuous weather cast away with the losse of which mens lues at Bigbury Bay, together with all the goods in her, Amounting in all to the value of Sixe Hundred and Ten Pounds or therabouts, To the utter undoing of our said poore Subject, who before this untimely accident lived well, and was able to defend the world, but hath little or no meanes now left to helpe himselfe, or to sustaine his poore wife and Children, who live in great want, and are like to continue the rest of their daies in great misery, unless they be charitably holpen and relieved by the good deuotion and beneuolence of our loving & wel-disposed Subjects, in this their great necessity.

IN AS MUCH as we therefore, that we (tendering the lamentable and distressed estate of our said poore Subject) of our especiall Grace & Princely compassion, have given & granted, and by these our Letters Patent doe give & grant vnto our said poore Subject John Long, and vnto Robert Clarke his Deputy, and to their Deputie and Deputies, the bearer or bearers hereof, full power, licence and authority to aske, gather, receive & take the Almes and charitable beneuolence of all our loving Subjects whatsoever Inhabiting within our Counties of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, & Essex, with our Cities of Westminster, Canterbury, Rochester, and the Cinque Ports: And in all other Cities, Townes corporate, privileged places, Parishes, Villages, & in all other places whatsoever within our said Counties, and not elsewhere, for and towards the recovery of his said losses, and the reliefe & maintenance of himselfe, his poore wife & family.

WE HEREBY will & command you, & euery of you, that at such time & times as the said John Long, and Robert Clarke his Deputie, or their Deputy or Deputies the bearer or bearers hereof, shall come & repaire to any your Churches, Chappels, or other places, to aske, and receive the gratuities & charitable beneuolence of our said Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to do, without any manner your lets, or contradictions. And you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better stirring vp of a charitable deuotion, deliberately to publish & declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, or the Copy or Briebe thereof, vnto our said Subjects, within One Month next after your receipt thereof, upon some Sabbath day when no other Collection shall be made, Exhorting & perswading them to extend their liberall contributions in so good and charitable a deed. And you the Churchwardens of euery Parish where such Collection is to be made, (as aforesaid) to collect & gather the Almes & charitable beneuolence of all our loving Subjects, aswell, strangers as others, from seat to seat; And what shall be by you so gathered, to endorse on the Back-side hereof, in words at length, and not in figures, & the same deliuer to the bearer or bearers hereof, when as therunto you shall be required. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or provision heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN WITNESSE whereof, we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at Westminster, the Sixe & Twentieth day of February, in the Sixtenth yeare of our Raigne England, France, & Ireland; and of Scotland the Two & fiftieth.

Steward